

## Changes in Washington's Population and Enrollment

### Population and Enrollment:

*Population Age 17-22 and  
Total 2- and 4-Year Fall Term  
Headcount Enrollment*

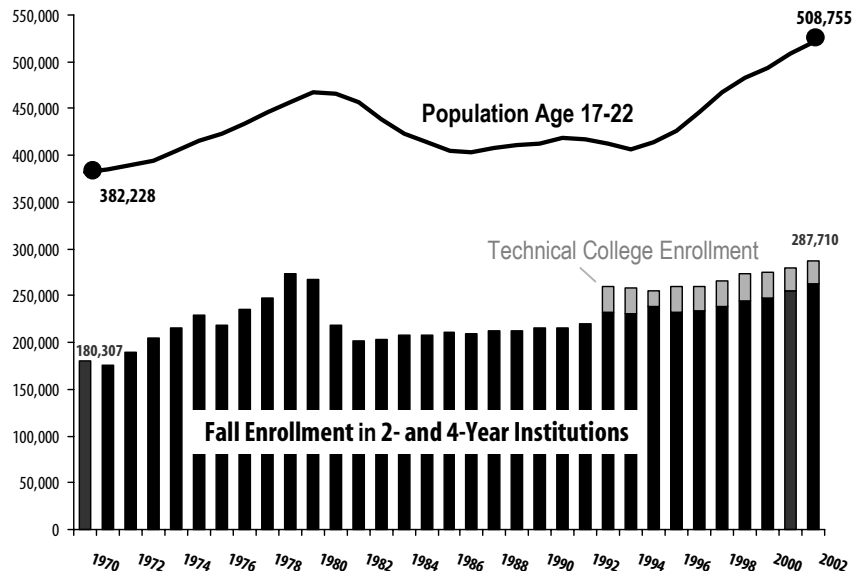
| Year   | Pop 17-22 | 2+4-Year<br>Fall Enrollment* |
|--------|-----------|------------------------------|
| 1970   | 382,228   | 180,307                      |
| 1971   | 385,513   | 176,327                      |
| 1972   | 389,256   | 189,600                      |
| 1973   | 393,923   | 204,071                      |
| 1974   | 405,368   | 215,933                      |
| 1975   | 416,100   | 229,826                      |
| 1976   | 422,771   | 219,224                      |
| 1977   | 433,584   | 235,317                      |
| 1978   | 445,725   | 247,113                      |
| 1979   | 456,713   | 273,565                      |
| 1980   | 467,078   | 267,087                      |
| 1981   | 466,341   | 218,595                      |
| 1982   | 456,307   | 201,473                      |
| 1983   | 438,205   | 203,612                      |
| 1984   | 422,619   | 208,055                      |
| 1985   | 413,565   | 207,023                      |
| 1986   | 405,270   | 211,080                      |
| 1987   | 403,788   | 208,746                      |
| 1988   | 408,534   | 212,394                      |
| 1989   | 411,322   | 212,818                      |
| 1990   | 412,620   | 215,299                      |
| 1991   | 418,608   | 216,071                      |
| 1992   | 416,794   | 220,691                      |
| 1993 * | 412,742   | 259,548                      |
| 1994   | 406,289   | 257,539                      |
| 1995   | 413,954   | 254,817                      |
| 1996   | 426,011   | 259,373                      |
| 1997   | 446,675   | 259,885                      |
| 1998   | 467,650   | 266,593                      |
| 1999   | 483,447   | 272,792                      |
| 2000   | 494,210   | 274,439                      |
| 2001   | 508,755   | 279,028                      |
| 2002   | 520,533   | 287,710                      |

Total w/o  
Technical  
College

\* Technical College enrollment has been included in the total since 1993.

- ▶ Although enrollment in Washington's higher education institutions is capped by policy, enrollment trends have reflected changes in the prime college-age population (ages 17-22).
- ▶ Enrollments peaked in the 1970s as the baby boom generation went to college and were flat during the 1980s as baby boomers moved out of the prime college-age years.
- ▶ Due mainly to a strong economy, which often affects enrollment decisions, enrollments in the late 1990s lagged behind the surge in the college-age population – the so-called “baby boom echo.”
- ▶ Recent trends in applications to higher education institutions indicate that as the state economy slows, expected enrollment pressures due to demographic factors are emerging.

### Higher Education Enrollment has Generally Reflected Population Change



SOURCES: Population data is from State Population by Age and Sex: 1970-2030, November 2002 Forecast. Enrollment data is from Higher Education Enrollment Report and State Board for Community and Technical Colleges Management Information System report, state-funded enrollment only.

## Participation Rate Trends in Washington's 4-Year Institutions (Headcount Basis)

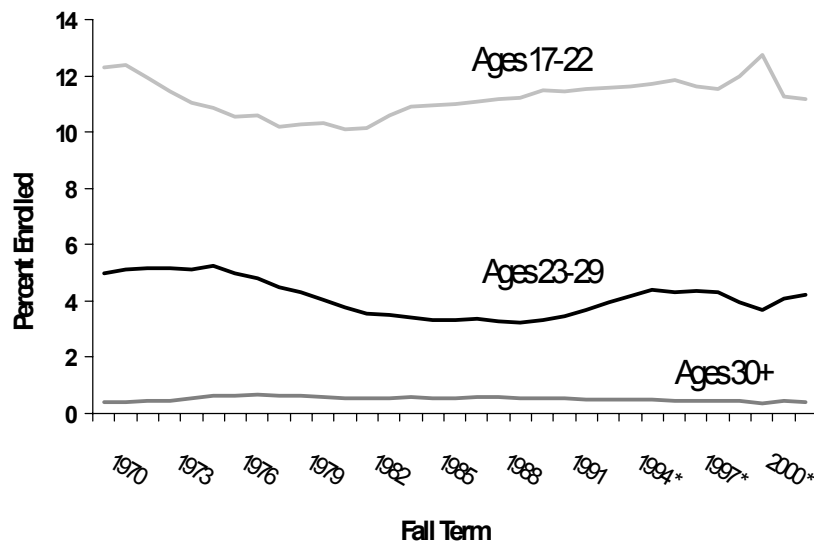
### Participation Rates

for Public 4-Year Institutions  
Based on Fall Headcount  
Enrollment for Selected Age  
Groups

| Fall Term | AGE:  |       |      |
|-----------|-------|-------|------|
|           | 17-22 | 23-29 | 30+  |
| 1970      | 12.29 | 5.00  | 0.42 |
| 1971      | 12.38 | 5.10  | 0.41 |
| 1972      | 11.93 | 5.18  | 0.44 |
| 1973      | 11.42 | 5.15  | 0.46 |
| 1974      | 11.06 | 5.12  | 0.52 |
| 1975      | 10.86 | 5.25  | 0.61 |
| 1976      | 10.54 | 4.96  | 0.64 |
| 1977      | 10.59 | 4.80  | 0.66 |
| 1978      | 10.18 | 4.48  | 0.64 |
| 1979      | 10.26 | 4.33  | 0.64 |
| 1980      | 10.30 | 4.03  | 0.60 |
| 1981      | 10.08 | 3.75  | 0.54 |
| 1982      | 10.12 | 3.53  | 0.52 |
| 1983      | 10.57 | 3.48  | 0.54 |
| 1984      | 10.89 | 3.40  | 0.57 |
| 1985      | 10.94 | 3.30  | 0.54 |
| 1986      | 11.00 | 3.33  | 0.56 |
| 1987      | 11.09 | 3.35  | 0.59 |
| 1988      | 11.16 | 3.29  | 0.57 |
| 1989      | 11.23 | 3.22  | 0.54 |
| 1990      | 11.48 | 3.34  | 0.55 |
| 1991      | 11.46 | 3.46  | 0.52 |
| 1992      | 11.55 | 3.67  | 0.51 |
| 1993 *    | 11.57 | 3.97  | 0.50 |
| 1994 *    | 11.61 | 4.19  | 0.49 |
| 1995 *    | 11.71 | 4.38  | 0.48 |
| 1996 *    | 11.84 | 4.33  | 0.47 |
| 1997 *    | 11.63 | 4.35  | 0.47 |
| 1998 *    | 11.52 | 4.29  | 0.45 |
| 1999 *    | 11.99 | 3.97  | 0.43 |
| 2000 *    | 12.76 | 3.66  | 0.38 |
| 2001      | 11.28 | 4.10  | 0.44 |
| 2002      | 11.19 | 4.20  | 0.42 |

- ▶ "Participation rate" refers to the percentage of the population in a certain age group, such as 17-22 year olds, enrolled in college.
- ▶ Approximately twelve percent of the age 17-22 population is typically enrolled in public four-year institutions.
- ▶ About three to five percent of the age 23-29 population and less than one percent of persons age 30 and above are enrolled in public four-year schools.
- ▶ The level of college enrollments is affected by the number of prime college-age persons in the population AND the participation rate of various age cohorts.
- ▶ Although the level of enrollments was flat through the 1980s and the early 1990s, there was a small but steady increase in the participation rate of the 17-22 year old population in four-year public institutions.

### Participation Rates Have Been Stable in the 4-Year System



\* Includes Timber Worker Displacement Program, during 1993-2000.

SOURCES: Population data is from State Population by Age and Sex: 1970-2030, November 2002 Forecast. Enrollment data is from Higher Education Enrollment Report, state-funded enrollment only.

## Participation Rate Trends in Washington's 2-Year Institutions (FTE Basis)

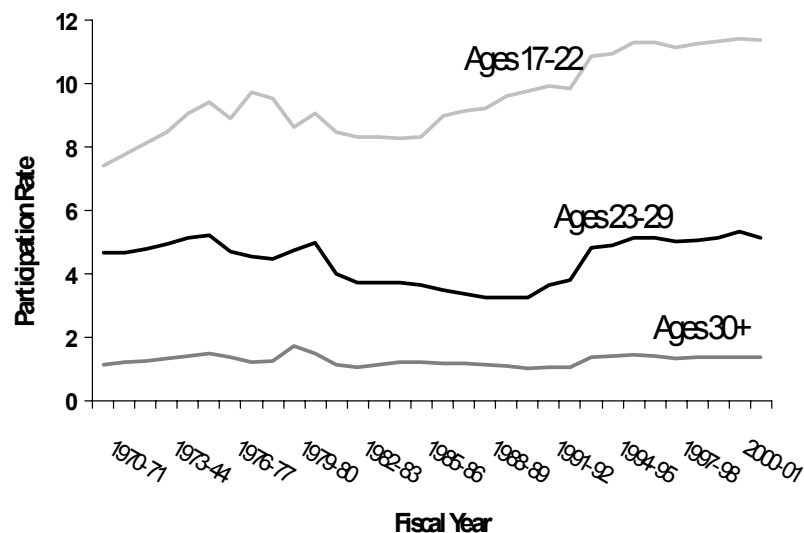
### Participation Rates

for Public 2-Year System  
for Selected Age Groups by  
Full-Time Equivalent (FTE)  
Enrollment

| Fiscal<br>Year | AGE:  |       |      |
|----------------|-------|-------|------|
|                | 17-22 | 23-29 | 30+  |
| 1970-71        | 7.42  | 4.67  | 1.14 |
| 1971-72        | 7.75  | 4.67  | 1.20 |
| 1972-73        | 8.10  | 4.80  | 1.26 |
| 1973-44        | 8.49  | 4.93  | 1.32 |
| 1974-75        | 9.07  | 5.15  | 1.42 |
| 1975-76        | 9.41  | 5.22  | 1.48 |
| 1976-77        | 8.89  | 4.71  | 1.39 |
| 1977-78        | 9.74  | 4.55  | 1.22 |
| 1978-79        | 9.52  | 4.49  | 1.26 |
| 1979-80        | 8.61  | 4.74  | 1.72 |
| 1980-81        | 9.06  | 4.99  | 1.49 |
| 1981-82        | 8.48  | 4.00  | 1.12 |
| 1982-83        | 8.30  | 3.74  | 1.05 |
| 1983-84        | 8.30  | 3.74  | 1.12 |
| 1984-85        | 8.26  | 3.71  | 1.20 |
| 1985-86        | 8.30  | 3.63  | 1.23 |
| 1986-87        | 9.00  | 3.48  | 1.19 |
| 1987-88        | 9.13  | 3.36  | 1.17 |
| 1988-89        | 9.20  | 3.26  | 1.14 |
| 1989-90        | 9.60  | 3.25  | 1.09 |
| 1990-91        | 9.75  | 3.25  | 1.03 |
| 1991-92*       | 9.92  | 3.63  | 1.04 |
| 1992-93*       | 9.85  | 3.82  | 1.06 |
| 1993-94**      | 10.88 | 4.81  | 1.38 |
| 1994-95**      | 10.96 | 4.91  | 1.43 |
| 1995-96**      | 11.31 | 5.14  | 1.45 |
| 1996-97**      | 11.30 | 5.14  | 1.41 |
| 1997-98***     | 11.15 | 5.01  | 1.35 |
| 1998-99***     | 11.26 | 5.04  | 1.36 |
| 1999-00***     | 11.33 | 5.13  | 1.39 |
| 2000-01***     | 11.41 | 5.34  | 1.39 |
| 2001-02****    | 11.39 | 5.15  | 1.37 |

- ▶ The age distribution at two-year institutions differs from that of the four-year institutions.
- ▶ Typically, under ten percent of the age 17-22 population has been enrolled in the two-year system on an FTE basis, rising to over eleven percent in recent years.
- ▶ Based again on FTEs, only slightly more than one percent of persons age 30 and above are enrolled in two-year institutions; however this is more than double the rate at the four-year schools. Because of the large size of this population cohort, a small difference in participation rates contributes to large difference in enrollments.
- ▶ Participation rates rose steadily in the two-year system during the 1990s; however part of the increase was due to the merger of the community and public technical college systems in 1993.

### Participation Rates for Ages 17-22 have Increased Since 1970



\* Includes Community College (CC), Timber Worker Displacement Program (TW).

\*\* Includes CC, TW, Workforce Training Program (WFT) and Technical College (TC).

\*\*\* Includes CC, TW, WFT, TC, and Private Career Colleges (PCC).

\*\*\*\* Includes CC, WFT, TC, and PCC.

SOURCES: Population data is from State Population by Age and Sex: 1970-2030, November 2002 Forecast. Enrollment data is from State Board for Community and Technical Colleges Management Information System report, state-funded enrollment only.